Increasing the Rates of DAVP Advertisements

76. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING pleased to state:

(a) whether DAVP advertisement rates remained low and not increased since January, 1999; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to raise the rates early?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The rates for release of Government advertisements by DAVP were revised with effect from 1st January, 1999 on the basis of the recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee. With a view to recommend a new Rate Structure, the Government have already set up a new Rate Structure Committee.

New FM Channel by Prasar Bharati

77. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has decided to start new FM channels;

(b) if so, the main features and terms and conditions; and

(c) the names of States where these will be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Four New FM Channels have been started by Prasar Bharati from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, with effect from 1.9.2001. The channels are broadcasting programmes for 18 hours every day, of which 35% time is allotted to News and Current Affairs programmes and 65% to Entertainment. These channels are intended to be made into classic channels by broadcasting the music of Maestros, past and present, in addition to hourly News in Hindi, English and Regional Languages, from the three metro stations other than Delhi.

Abolition of Wage Board

78. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society is demanding that the Wage